

MUS 716 – Apps for Educators

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Countless apps are useful for educators. Visit [The Epic BYOD Toolchest](#) (I know this is an old link, but the categories are still relevant). Please share your favorite app(s) from past experiences or one you discovered recently.

For this assignment, I'd like to share a web app that I discovered this past year - [Sightreading Factory](#). Sight reading is an important skill, and something every band should work on. While I enjoy giving my bands new material to play, I've always found it to be a clumsy process: hand the music out, make sure everyone can see a part, read, hand in the music in order. Sightreading Factory generates musical material procedurally and instantly, alleviating the need to shuffle paper around the room. You can set several parameters: length, key signatures, time signatures, range, rhythms included, etc. Sightreading Factory works well for an individual instrumentalist or vocalist, but it also works for ensembles, provided you have a means to project your computer monitor onto a large screen or surface. You can configure your examples so that the entire band is playing the same part (much like in an instrumental method book), or so that different instruments have different parts.

There's a slight learning curve in the ensembles, but once they are used to reading the projected score, I am able to sight read 32 measures with my bands every day, and it takes about 2 minutes of our rehearsal time. The best part is that this requires no paper shuffling. I'd highly recommend it to any ensemble director.